

Mislaid Plans<sup>1</sup>

A rash of new bills came that morning. The letter from their insurance company announced the cancellation of their policies.

She sighed and rose wearily to tell her husband. The kitchen smelled of gas. On his desk she found the note.

"...the money from my life insurance will be enough for you and the children..."

1. (1) What does the title "Mislaid Plans" refer to? .....

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2. (2) Circle the meaning(s) of rash which is/are used in this story. Explain.

a. an eruption on the body (as from illness or an allergic reaction) .....

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b. a large number of instances (of usually unpleasant things) in a short period .....

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c. done or made quickly and without thought of the likely result .....

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3. (1) How does the husband commit suicide? .....

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4. (2) Write T if true and F if false.

\_\_\_\_\_ The family has financial difficulties.

\_\_\_\_\_ That morning's mail is all new bills.

\_\_\_\_\_ The husband does not know that he has no life insurance.

\_\_\_\_\_ The husband kills himself because his wife is divorcing him.

5. (4) Compare this story's twist ending with that of "The Lottery" or *An Inspector Calls* (ex. in terms of expectations, foreshadowing, diction, imagery, and silences or things unsaid). Continue on the back for more space.

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<sup>1</sup> Monica Ware, "Mislaid Plans," *Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing*, compact 6<sup>th</sup> edition, by Laurie G. Kirszner and Stephen R. Mandell, Thomson Wadsworth, 2007, p. 162.

